

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, CI

SUBJECT: NEW LAW AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIMES

1. JANUARY 24 ISSUE OF DIARIO OFICIAL CARRIED MINISTRY OF ECONOMY DECREE/LAW SUBJECTING PERSONS WHO COMMIT "ECONOMIC CRIMES" TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES. INFRACTIONS OF LAW INCLUDE FRAUDULENT SALE OF GOODS; CHARGING HIGHER THAN FIXED OR AUTHORIZED PRICES; HOARDING; FALSE OR TENDENTIOUS NEWS REGARDING SUPPLIES, PRICES, VALUE OF THE CURRENCY, AND OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS; AND VIOLATIONS OF WAGE LAWS AND ECONOMIC REGULATIONS. PRICE CONTROL AGENCY (DIRINCO) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND PRESENTING LEGAL CHARGES TO CIVILIAN COURTS.

2. IN EXPLAINING LAW, UNDER SECRETARY OF ECONOMY BORQUEZ SAID THAT PENALTIES FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES WILL RANGE BETWEEN 61 DAYS AND 20 YEARS IN JAIL. HE NOTED THAT THIS MEASURE WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT CONSUMER.

3. COMMENT: IN PAST THOSE COMMITTING ECONOMIC MISDEEDS WERE SUBJECT TO FINES OR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES. INTRODUCTION OF JAIL SENTENCES COULD PROVE POWERFUL DISINCENTIVE TO ILLEGAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THOSE (SUCH AS TAX
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EVASION) NOT MENTIONED IN LAW. INJUNCTION AGAINST FALSE AND

TENDENTIOUS ECONOMIC NEWS IS FURTHER RESTRAINT ON CHILEAN
MEDIA.
THOMPSON

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